

VIRGINIA ROANOKE RIVER BASIN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
John H Kerr Visitors Center, Boydton, VA
March 9, 2005

Attendance: All VRRBAC members except Sen. Hawkins, Del. Byron, Del. Hurt, Del. Ware, Del. Wright, Haywood Hamlet, and John Lindsey. DEQ: Greg Anderson, DCR: Tim Ott

Call to Order:

Chairman Feild called the meeting to order.

Recognition of Visitors:

Chairman Feild welcomed everyone and recognized members and guests who included David Paylor, Virginia Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources, John Morris, NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Becky Mitchell, City of Virginia Beach, Wayne Carter, Mecklenburg County, Harrel Johnson, Roanoke River Basin Association, Michael Hosey, USACE, Sherri Storm, USACE, Buck Buchanan, USACE, and Tim Rainey, USACE.

Welcome:

- Wayne Carter, County Administrator of Mecklenburg County, welcomed the group and thanked the group for the opportunity to address them. He encouraged the group to try and tour the facility in the future. He noted the importance of Kerr Dam to the County and river basin. This dam provides major flood control for the Roanoke River basin. He said Mecklenburg County was blessed to have 2 lakes in the County, Buggs Island (Kerr) and Gaston, which are very different from each other. Buggs Island is very rural and provides a private setting for users. Gaston is much more developed and has a significant problem with Hydrilla. The lake was fortunate to get some funding from the VA legislature this year to help control/eradicate the weed. NC has been funding this effort for years.
- Tim Rainey, Resource Manager at J H Kerr, then addressed the group and on behalf of the USACE welcomed the committee and guests. He apologized for not being able to allow the group to tour the facility due to security protocol. He said it could be arranged in the future with appropriate notice.

January 10, 2005 Meeting Minutes:

This agenda item was overlooked and will need to be addressed at the next meeting.

David Paylor, Virginia Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources and John Morris, Director of Division of Water Resources of the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources; “John H. Kerr 216 Study”

David Paylor and John Morris represent Virginia and North Carolina, respectively on the Executive Committee of the John H. Kerr 216 Study. The Executive Committee generally oversees the Study, and makes recommendations to the USACE District Engineer. The purpose of their talk was to update VRRBAC on the study. David addressed the group first and then John.

- David indicated that the 216 Study is equivalent to and in some regards an outgrowth of the FERC re-licensing process. A similar stakeholder approach was used then involving lake homeowners, Nature Conservancy, industry, power interests, citizens, Federal Government, and other interested parties. That process was successful due to the commitment of the stakeholders.
- The Rivers and Harbors Act mandates a 2 step process and the study is now in the 2nd step. The purpose is to listen to all stakeholders and to determine if there is a better way to operate the dam. The guide curve is based on flood control, a power contract, and other considerations. For example, the Nature Conservancy is concerned about the bottomland hardwood forests and the effects of the

high levels of sustained flow. They believe it would be better to have higher flows for shorter periods of time versus lower flows. This would reduce the time the sustained flows would cover the tree root zones. So can releases be managed differently, perhaps more actively to correct the problems? What are the effects of the operational changes downstream and can there be a better operational hydrograph?

- The budget for the project is funded 50 % by Federal government and 25 % each by Virginia and North Carolina. Usually it is a 50/50 split but with 2 states involved the funding changes accordingly.
- A TAC was formed to help us frame the issues that needed to be looked at. Nine major areas were defined in this process for examination and are presented below.

KERR 216 STUDY WORKGROUPS

Workgroup 1: Downstream Flow Regime and Effects on Riparian Ecosystem

There are obviously problems with bank erosion and flooding of forests that are not adapted to such flood events.

Workgroup 2: Water Quality

There are water quality issues regarding dissolved oxygen and sedimentation.

Workgroup 3: Sedimentation and Channel Morphology

This group is looking at the effects of the hydrographs on the above.

Workgroup 4: Reservoir Resources

This includes recreational resources, property values, and the impacts of fluctuating lake levels.

Workgroup 5: Downstream Flow-based Recreation

Workgroup 6: Salt Wedge

This problem nearly shut Weyerhaeuser down during the drought because there was so much migration of saltwater upstream.

Workgroup 7: Diadromous Fish and Riverine Aquatic Resources

Workgroup 8: Water Supply

Workgroup 9: Operating Policies and Administrative Procedures

This group deals with the overall management of the project.

- Through the Nature Conservancy and the FERC re-licensing process some mathematical models have been developed. In the end we hope to have models to run with the different scenarios and be able to determine how to change the guide curve in order to meet the other needs. Maybe more frequent operation decisions will be made to enhance the effect of the operation. There is the potential for having a more dynamic operating scheme for the dam itself so that any effects can be optimized.

The project management plan is available on line. The website is at the following address.
http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/jhkerr_216/main.htm \$ 600 million has been proposed in the next

- Federal budget so the 216 study is fully funded at present. Each workgroup has a work plan that the executive committee is reviewing to determine the usefulness of the planned information. One of the functions of the executive committee is to control the process to make sure the study is effective. He wants the study to be practical in nature and hopes to provide useful information as the project moves forward. Then if things get tighter budget wise, the 216 study will still produce a product which provides recommendations to better manage the project.
- John Morris indicated he was delighted to be here to address this group. He commented that the Roanoke River is a critical resource for both VA and NC. He is very interested in this group and the NC counterpart NRRBAC. He met with some of the NRRBAC members yesterday and they realize they are somewhat behind VA, but apparently some other priorities held them up. He hopes the Bi-State Commission will be operational soon. He believes these groups can effect good communication which is essential for water supply planning. He thinks we are starting at a point where there is good communication and cooperation with VA and NC over the Roanoke. He said the licensing of the Dominion project have had a lot to do with this positive climate. This process involved many complicated issues, many which were controversial. Over a period of time the people serious about the re-licensing process remained and others that were not that constructive dropped out. The process continued, people got to know one another and a new sense of trust and understanding of the legitimate interests developed. We need to have power generation, good fish habitat, flood control, and recreation. There needs to be a practical balance of all of these legitimate needs. David said the 216 study for Kerr Lake is equivalent to the FERC re-licensing process. Many of the same issues are there that were involved in the re-licensing. It is encouraging that and the expertise and goodwill developed in the earlier effort has continued in this process. Each of these 9 teams has members from VA and NC representing the different interests. These are knowledgeable people who are committed to a good outcome. He believes re-licensing was good for Dominion. There was good communication and cooperation to work out careful compromises to work out an optimized way to operate the Dominion facilities so that the social needs were met. This gives him confidence that this process will go well also. He looks forward to working more with this group once the NC side gets mobilized.
- **Comment:** Dr. Cutler said it is a pleasure to hear about the Bi-state cooperation. He is interested in the fact that so much attention is given to the Chesapeake Bay and the Albemarle and Pamlico sounds are relatively unknown. It is not appreciated. It is hard to believe that this is because there are only 2 states involved. The Chesapeake Bay is only 5 states, but you do have the Nations capital and it is highly populated. For example on I-81 you drive through and out of areas where there are signs saying you are entering leaving the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. When you leave are you in no mans land? Are we in a watershed? We need to point out what is going on in our watershed. Please help us do that. At our end of the river, for instance it would be nice to know more information on the value of that watershed. We need to know what impact we have on that estuary. **David agreed with his assessment of the Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds as they make up the 2nd largest estuary in the US.**
- **Question:** Dr. Cutler pointed out that a FERC re-licensing was going on at SML and that SML was a water supply. He then asked if the upstream supply was being considered in the study. David stated that the technical folks wanted to include data for the entire watershed. The study is including discharge and demand data. Recreational issues are not being considered upstream. For the Albemarle - Pamlico Sound there is a large stakeholder group that protects those interests the lines of the project barely hit VA so we have heretofore been ancillary. He hopes VA will become more involved.
- **Comment:** Dr. Cutler indicated that he would love for the Albemarle Sound people to address the Upper Roanoke area Chamber of Commerce, County Boards, and City Council.
- **Question:** Bob Conner asked if he heard correctly that recreation was not being considered. Dave said that recreation was being considered at Kerr and Gaston but not SML. **Water Quality?** Yes.

- **Question: Bob said that recreation has a large economic impact on Southside and wanted to know if Dave could foresee any restrictions on motorized vessels on the water? He cautioned that this issue should be openly discussed so the public should not be blindsided on this issue.** Dave indicated that safety was an issue outside of the study and was under the purview of DGIF. We are more concerned about recreation, that there is a resource to be used.
- **Comment: Charles Poindexter invited John and Dave to a Tri-county Lake Commission (TLAC) meeting at Smith Mountain Lake to address the TLAC Board.** They are receptive to speaking and it was indicated that Greg could help make the arrangements with them.
- **Question: Charles Poindexter said in the re-licensing at SML/Leesville that FERC and therefore the Federal government is saying how much water can be withdrawn. DEQ says OK but FERC is now saying no. Was that an issue in the other re-licensing processes?** It was not. John said the Fed. Power Act resulted in the Fed. Governments taking over a lot of authority for water management for bodies of water like Lake Gaston. Those licenses can be amended as new needs come along. We have a very complicated system between the Fed., State and Local governments. A body of water used for electric power is under a considerable degree of control even though FERC makes those decision it is still a big preemption of Authority.
- **Comment: Dr Cutler said this is really a major issue that needs to be clarified.** Bedford, Franklin, Roanoke, etc really need to know what the process is to apply for the use of drinking water.
- **Comment: John Feild is participating in the State Water Supply Planning Regulation TAC.** An issue he is bringing to the table, deals with Kerr being somewhat unique in that there is Federal ownership, Bi-state rights, riparian law questions, and primacy of who had what say in granting a permit for the resource. Coordination must take place across the State lines. DEQ envisions 20 year plans revisited every 5 years. All this planning would be for naught if there was no coordination across state lines. If there is a pipeline to go to Raleigh/Durham/Cary and a competing withdrawal in Southside, who has the decision Authority? This is an issue that the Bi-State Commission could iron out.
- **Comment: John Feild continued, Dr. Cutler raised the point about the Chesapeake Bay and we do not go to that bay.** There was legislation called the "Flush Tax" which would benefit the Chesapeake Bay. Unless there is some provision that would allow some of those funds to be used in our own basin, then we are being taxed for something we are not represented in. However the Chesapeake Bay may be considered a resource of the entire State. When it comes time to effect remedial activity in the Roanoke Basin where is the funding going to come from? Unless we develop an extremely cozy relation with our NC counterparts our funds will be used to clean up the Roanoke Basin above the State line. These are issues that our group must hammer out. We must lobby with our legislatures, the DEQ planning element, and the Bi-State Commission dialogue to reach some compromise and consensus. They are not easy issues. **Dave said that most Bay moneys are appropriated to WQIF specifically because of what you said. The monies are not exclusive to the Chesapeake Bay but available to others as well.** Mike McEvoy said that the flush tax was defeated.
- **Question: Curry Martin asked how long a license was good for.** 40-50 years
- **Comment: Bob Conner stated that is a losing battle for safety on the lake.** USACE controls and should reach accord and provide necessary patrolling for all lakes along the Roanoke River basin. Each year there are more and more boats and the localities can not afford to patrol the lakes. There are more and more accidents each year. USACE has the staff to do this whereas the State and Localities do not. **David said that there are several individuals at DGIF involved in boating safety. He will talk to Charley Sledd at DGIF to see what the relationship with USACE has been and see if there is a potential to have better support from them.** All of our lakes, Lake Anna, SML, Buggs Island (Kerr), etc. are all busier. One of the issues I believe is that you can

buy a boat and put it in the water and do not have to be licensed. They do not take a boating safety course. This is something that needs to be encouraged. People think they can have 5-6 beers and jump behind the wheel. There is not enough patrolling on the lake. **It is so bad at SML that there was legislation to put a game warden on the lake 24/7.**

- **Comment:** Tim Rainey said USACE is restricted in authority and jurisdiction in how we patrol the waters. We can patrol those that are administered by USACE. Any change in authority would have to be approved by Congress. When the projects were established it was all proprietary jurisdiction, meaning that since the USACE managed and owned the property the USACE could establish regulations and restrictions we could enforce. The State maintained all statutory authority over the property. On a funding part we barely have enough to patrol Kerr. We work with VA and NC to try and do that. If it was possible he would be happy to work on this with the States. The U S Coast Guard is looking at boating licensing all around the country and can set regulations and the States really do not have to follow in certain cases. This is an area the Federal Government is leaving "hands off" and it's up to the States to decide. **Bob Conner said this helps as I at least know where to go. There are enough safety programs. It is not that safety is not being preached. It is being preached everywhere. Someone has to come up with the money for a water safety program which does not put the total burden on the surrounding counties and jurisdictions. This is really a serious problem.**
- **Question: Senator Ruff asked can any remodeling possibly change the issue of long term flooding of the trees.** John Morris said that a possible solution would be to release flood waters at a higher rate for a shorter period of time which would reduce the time the trees were flooded. It is fortunate that we now have these good hydrologic models to test different scenarios. The Oasis model is to be used in the 216 study. For example the current release during floods is about 20000 cfs. The model can see what would happen if the max release was 35000 cfs. That would reduce the time it takes to get the flood water out. This may benefit these hunting and nature preserve areas downstream. It may also improve water quality as currently the dissolved oxygen (DO) will go to zero in the hot summer when it is trapped in the flood areas. You can have a large fish kill that way. As the water is released back to the stream at lower flows the low DO can cause a fish kill. These hydrologic models can look at different conditions and examine effects to the lake levels, water quality, length of flooding, fish habitat, etc. You can input data and look at the last 50 years of history. I want to reassure this group that there will be no surprises coming from this 216 study and happen without people knowing about it. This is a deliberate process and tentative recommendations will get much public scrutiny. Any changes would have to go through a real deliberative process so that all stakeholders would have a chance to express their views.
- **Question: Senator Ruff asked if there would be much impact to farm land from the increased flows. Watt Foster was concerned over the erosion and the time to react to the flood. He said to do what you need to do on your land you need to know and be able to react.** This needs to be analyzed further. However, it appears not to be a concern to the farmers and foresters. They want to get the flood event over with as quick as possible and get back to normal operations. Apparently, the prolonged lower flows cause more erosion than a shorter higher flow. **David Paylor agreed with Senator Ruff, in that maybe the problem can't be solved completely but perhaps it can be made less severe. That's where this model becomes very important. It can help examine negative impacts as well as the positive ones. Again it is hoped that a way to optimize the operation to address the competing needs can be found.** Harrel Johnson (RRBA) indicated that the complexion of the landowners downstream has changed greatly over the years. The largest landowners in the lower basin now are the Nature Conservancy, International Paper, and US Fish and Wildlife Service. Many farms have been sold. There are some farming activities but what John says is true. Generally, those left say they want to get the flooding over with as quick as possible. Even the public's view on river management has changed. We are trying to meet the current situation. In answer to the erosion concerns, the river bank gets like putty and causes more erosion than with a scour event. What we are doing is adaptive management, and adjustments with the environment today.

- **Comment:** Dr Cutler mentioned that an economic analysis of users would show that birdwatchers were 10X more popular than hunting today. Recreational visitors with their binoculars and hiking and so forth are becoming an important tourism economic index. If you look at the change in complexion of the downstream users and interest groups, the Fish and Wildlife refuge, the Nature Conservancy preserves, etc, there are a lot of dollars involved. People are coming to NC to take advantage of those resources. This needs to be taken into account. The users downstream and the sources of money are changing. Harrel said you are absolutely right. Ten years ago ecotourism was not a word. Now it is a very valuable industry.
- **Question:** Read Charlton asked where the Nature Conservancy's largest block of land was. Jamesville upstream towards Scotland Neck.
- **Comment:** John Morris clarified that a lot of this land is owned by NC Wildlife Resources and managed for hunting and fishing. U S Fish and Wildlife also manages some land there. So its multipurpose public land used for many purposes including hunting and fishing.
- **Question:** Read Charlton asked if Cypress die back was a major issue. Harrel said yes but realize that all the damage was not from dam operation but some was from natural events such as hurricanes. The problem is with the regeneration in bottomland hardwood forests and cypress trees in that flood plain. Read said that the reason he brought this up is the Santee Cooper Dam that was built in the 30's/40's caused a similar problem, specifically the delta, because of saltwater intrusion. Also the flow of the water contributed. Some years later a canal was built to re-supply the Santee Cooper to mitigate the saltwater intrusion. Harrel said that project is a classic example of a mistake was made and we need to fix it.
- **Comment:** Evelyn Janney stated that she was not real sure of what she was hearing. She was not certain of what crops are grown there. However, she wants to ascertain that she was not hearing that tourism is more important than the crops that are grown for food. Not that the small farmer who must depend on his crop for a living that his crop might be underwater when that water is released because he was not considered. You are not talking about him going to the wayside. Harrel said no, but we are hearing from the people involved in agriculture now is that it is in their best interests if the water has to come down stream then get it on them and off them as quick as you can rather than have a preset discharge period of lengthy time where he might lose his crop. For example if he has a cotton crop out there he may be able to take a couple days but not an extended period. Most of those people are coming to the table and saying I want it higher and quicker. Watt Foster indicated the bottom land he farms doesn't have water stand for a couple weeks. It takes 3-4 days and goes down. If you send more at one time it's going to be higher initially, right, or will it be lower? According to the model it won't be higher. If you are going to flood more land I don't want it. I would rather have a day longer with less land than more land flooded and I need more time to get the cattle off the land. Basically the Nature Conservancy is saying that their models show under the release scenarios proposed, that the shorter the pulse, the less flooding and inundation of the floodplain outside the river bank occurs. The longer the flood period the more the water works back up the laterals into the floodplain. Their contingent is that it is a better scenario. It sounds like a win/win scenario. I would like to see the models. John Feild said we are talking different terrains, topography, and soils in these two areas. In Watt's case we are talking between SML and Brookneal and in the other below Lake Gaston and Roanoke Rapids. Watt said our land is not flat. Maybe what you are talking about is not relevant to SML. No it's not really. Things are different everywhere, but when you say bird-watching is 10X more popular than hunting, where I am from that's not true. I live in a rural area and we farm, hunt, and fish and the birdwatchers have to get permission to come on my property to see them. Evelyn stated the way I see it, we all like to eat and need to eat. Bob Conner said I have to agree and I farm, but bird watching and appreciating nature are becoming real big. We need to be realistic and understand that there is less hunting going on and more nature appreciation among the younger generation. Watt replied, well that's a good thing but they just need to realize where their food comes from. John Feild said the 216 study is to surface and examine issues and then to make recommendations to meet a consensus to operate Kerr Reservoir.

Based on the dialogue we had today, you can see there is divergence on issues even within our own group

- **Question: Charles Poindexter said I think we will see the same issues on the SML re-licensing. How far does Oasis go upstream?** John Morris said that the model covers the entire basin. What we are focusing on is the Kerr Reservoir. The upstream lakes like SML, Leesville, and Philpott the model looks at the policies of these projects which store and release water and takes them into account. We are addressing changes in the release protocol during the re-licensing. That would require the model to be readjusted to account for the new policies, which is something which is done easily. **Is Oasis available to AEP? It's a USACE model, right?** No, it is a model developed and owned by the consulting firm Hydrologics. **Would financial arrangements need to be made to use it on the upper basin?** We have the use of it for the 216 Study and I am not certain how far our license goes. I will be glad to look at it and get back with you.
- **Question: Mike McEvoy said you mentioned earlier that our NC counterparts are getting organized. Is there any other news on NCRRBAC as to when they will be ready to have a joint meeting?** I am not directly involved with this but know that all of appointments have been made. Richard Seekins is the spark plug for this on the NC side and really wants us to catch up with VA. I know its being taken very seriously and hope that soon our team will be on the field also.
- **Question: John Feild asked what the time frame is for the 216 Study.** John said the current ending date is 2008 or 2010. They are attempting now to find a way to compress this schedule and hopefully speed up the process. One of the things which takes so long is the water quality work requires the collection of data over a couple of summers. We are trying to make more use of existing data to expedite the study.

Sub-committee Reports:

Agriculture and Forestry

Haywood Hamlet was not present so there was no report.

Municipal Interests and Permit Holders

- John Lindsey submitted minutes of a subcommittee meeting. These are presented as follows:

Virginia Roanoke River Basin Advisory Committee Municipal Interests and Permit Holders Sub-Committee Minutes

The Municipal Interests and Permit Holders Sub-Committee met at Cool Branch Volunteer Rescue Squad Headquarters in Penhook, VA on March 5, 2005. The meeting was called to order at 10 AM by Chairman John Lindsey. The following members were in attendance: Maureen Castern, William P. Johnson, John Lindsay, C.J. Mitchem, and Bill Reidenbach. Bill was asked to document the meeting discussion and conclusions.

The meeting began with an overview and outline of the charter of the Bi-State Basin Commission, the Advisory Committee and the Municipal Interests sub-committee by the chairman. Discussion followed on defining the charter and scope of the sub-committee. The committee was introduced to the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission Long Range Water Supply System Study conducted by Black and Veatch. The sub-committee agreed that to address current and future water needs it would also have to address the question of water availability.

Specifically the sub-committee believes that its scope includes identifying ways to determine:

- The available water within the basin under varying weather conditions.
- The current and future uses of the water within the basin and the issues associated therewith.
- The questions that the Bi-State Commission may have for the sub-committee.

The conclusions reached and implementation efforts undertaken included:

- A working group of Messrs. Johnson and Mitchem was formed to investigate the appropriateness of a stream flow model developed by Mr. Brian McCroden of Hydrologics for predicting the availability of water for users. It was brought out that the model is currently being used by the Army Corp of Engineers and others in the lower Roanoke.
- The chairman would seek input from the Advisory Committee on what types of questions the sub-committee may have to answer/face.
- The sub-committee would investigate ways to establish the current and future water needs of the basin. This effort will consider:
 1. Who the interested parties are and how they will be identified and solicited for cooperation
 2. How the data might be obtained (interviews, questionnaires other forums)
 3. What professional resources may be required to acquire the data? Data would not only consider current and future needs but other related issues of interest to the addressees
 4. What professional resources may be required to compile and analyze the data and an appropriate proposal of work (scoping document)
- Water quality as well as quantity will be an issue and needs to be considered in its scope
- A meeting schedule was set as follows: The first Saturday of the odd months of the year, starting at 10 AM, at Cool Branch Rescue Squad, Penhook. The chairman will also look at moving/rotating the site so as to be as inclusive as possible for all members.
- John Feild indicated that much of this subcommittees work would overlap with that of the DEQ Water Supply Planning TAC which he represents VRRBAC on. He wants people to pass information to him so that he can get it to the TAC. Mike McEvoy mentioned that this TAC had over 30 people on it so John has his work cut out. John indicated that the number had been pared from 32 to 16 members.

Lake Interests

- Bob Conner reported that Brunswick County would like the committee to come to Lake Gaston to see what all the hydrilla fuss was about. July is apparently the best time to view this problem growth in the lake.
- Another paramount issue is water safety that this subcommittee wants to address.
- Rivers: Watt Foster informed the group of the PCB TMDL meetings for the Upper Roanoke and the Staunton River that would be held respectively in Roanoke and Brookneal. This is a big issue and we need to address it. A link to information regarding these TMDLs is as follows: <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl/mtgppt.html> Greg gave the times and locations to the meetings. Watt commented that we have been waiting for some time to get any reports back from DEQ/VIMS to perhaps lift the advisory. It has been a couple years since any other data was obtained. Greg said there was some sampling done last year. This sampling was conducted at the Smith Mt. Lake area. A link to the data is as follows: <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/fishtissue/documents/2004fishpcbs1-2.xls> Also the extent of the advisory goes to where the North and South forks of the Roanoke River come together. There was a discussion of sources including transformer oil and paints. Read said several years ago the thinking from other cases was to leave the PCB where it was and not to stir it

up because the problem could be worsened. Watt said that you can go to the restaurants and eat a fish with higher concentrations of PCBs than the VDH says is acceptable when you catch them out of the river. That's a problem. It is impacting recreational interests within the basin. The advisory is on the main predatory fish like the bass and the stripers. If you curtail the enjoyment of eating your catch then you are not harmed, that is catch and release. Then everyone says why bother. There is an economic impact associated with this. Watt said it would be good if we stayed on top of this issue and pushed DEQ and VDH to be proactive in dealing with it.

- After the PCB discussion, Evelyn Janney brought up the point that farmers in America face numerous restrictions on uses of herbicides and pesticides. Many other countries do not have the same restrictions and supply food to America which is consumed by the public. It was stated by someone that it is very important to read the labels to find where produce, etc. is coming from. Bob Conner said that down the road it was possible that all beef cattle farmers would be required to maintain records of vaccinations, etc.

Water:

- Mike McEvoy briefly discussed the bills on consolidation of the storm-water program under DCR, bio-solids, evasive species, and landfill site distances from streams that passed the legislature. DCR has consolidated the storm-water program under its review. A number of bio-solid land applications bills were passed that may affect the farmers if they use them. A couple endangered species acts were passed. Probably one of the most controversial bills was passed about landfill location, where the distance was cut from 5 to 3 miles or 1 mile from a public water supply.
- Mike McEvoy mentioned that DEQ was working on another regulatory process for non-tidal nutrient standards. This process would determine whether nutrients are affecting these streams and what the standards would be. The 3 big sources are agriculture and urban runoff and wastewater treatment discharges. This will be a 18 month process and could significantly impact a number of Permit holders and also the agriculture and urban communities. Mike will be following the process.
- **Question: Bob Conner asked if there are bio-solids regulations.** Mike replied that there are regulations which if followed should protect the environment. There are a lot of out of state contractors applying bio-solids in VA. There are a lot brought in from NJ and NY areas. I understand that all the contractors are not good players. **Dr. Cutler said that will give a black eye to local use.** Bob Conner stated that when you can't graze your cattle for 6-8 months after treatment that is telling you something.

Other Business:

Reappointments

The subject of reappointments was brought up in regards to whether everyone was current. Appointments were initially staggered so that the whole citizen body did not come off the committee at the same time. So some appointments were made for a year and some for 2 years. Everyone was reappointed after the first year due to some changes in the law. Those appointed originally for a year were reappointed last July (2004). Those appointed for 2 years are due for reappointment this July (2005).

Funding

A brief summary of this topic was discussed at several points in the meeting. A mechanism for funding exists but depends upon appropriations to DEQ, which have not been made. The committee is limited in what it can accomplish without funding. Many of these members have been spending their own money for gas, food, and phone calls conducting the business of the organization.

Charlotte County Landfill Issue

- Read Charlton reported there had been a large public outcry over this issue, which is a quality of life issue. The Charlotte County BOS took no action other than to appoint an advisory committee. Read is a member of this and will represent VRRBAC on this issue. Apparently, if Charlotte County wants to participate in the regional landfill effort than it must notify the other participants. The advisory committee is going to recommend participation in the PSA and for the county to sign the agreement. On March 15, the Charlotte County Board will vote on this issue
- The cost for Charlotte County would be about 15% of the total, due to its lower population as compared to the others. The Halifax Co. share would be about 45% and the Mecklenburg share would be 40 %. Charlotte County would get 1/3 vote. It will cost about \$ 6 million to open and the expenses will be paid by raising three bonds. It would be almost impossible for Charlotte County to open its own landfill.
- One of the incentives for firms to locate here is that land in Charlotte Co. is inexpensive, about \$1000 per acre. Northern VA land is much more expensive, so Charlotte Co. is susceptible to an outside company offering benefits and creating a landfill here. This is an important issue and should not be turned over to a private firm. It can't be controlled. A private company wants to fill up a landfill as quickly as possible and make as much money as possible. Publicly owned landfills do a better job of encouraging recycling which can extend the life of a landfill. The same is true with bio-solids. You can regulate these things but you can not stop them from bringing in out of state bio-solids or trash.
- Public information meetings are being held on March 9th and 10th to give the public a chance to talk to Rick Weber, Director of Solid Waste Management in Loudon County, VA and get answers to their questions. The meetings are being sponsored by the Charlotte County Environmental Advisory Committee. Read passed out a flyer regarding locations and times.
- Read suggested that the group may want to consider taking a formal position on keeping out of state solid waste from the Roanoke River Basin. Interstate commerce laws allow this practice. John Field wondered if VRRBAC would have any standing in the matter since it was controlled by the federal laws. Bob Conner said he believed the General Assembly has decided that issue. Interstate commerce laws allow transport of garbage across State Lines. We can't obviate the Constitution but we can influence the County BOS. We can have a sense of the committee with regard to this but we can't override law. Is there a precedent of this committee passing such a resolution? John said just our stance on inter-basin transfers. We went through this in Brunswick County and if the State can't prevent barges from coming up the James River you are going to lose the battle. That was medical waste. This is only non-toxic solid waste. Bob cautioned to watch the fine print.
- John indicated an ad hoc committee could be formed to examine the issue. Read suggested that we see how the vote goes. Then if it seems prudent, Dr. Cutler and Read will serve on a committee. It was suggested that P. K. Pettus could possibly help with this issue
- Charles Poindexter stated that the court case required the State to accept interstate garbage for a commercial facility but does not affect a local government landfill. That should be an important consideration in any resolution.
- Bath Co. is similar to Page Co. At one point DEQ closed the landfill so there was no place to take the garbage. There were also closure/post closure expenses. The company declared bankruptcy. Then the locality had to close the old facility as well as starting a new one.

VRRBAC Bylaws

- John Feild had asked at the last meeting that the executive committee get together and formulate bylaws dealing with the succession of the Chairmanship. He believes that a 2-year term was

appropriate. He asked for concurrence on this from the committee. A motion was made that the executive committee meet and report back at the next meeting on their findings. The motion passed.

- The Chairman and Vice-chairman had collaborated on some bylaws for the committee and these were presented. There were a couple versions dealing with the issue of one or two vice-chairs. Dr. Cutler made a motion that the two vice-chair version be adopted. This was seconded. Discussion ensued regarding titling the vice-chairs and an amendment was made to title them 1st vice-chair and 2nd vice-chair. The motion was voted on and passed by the committee.
- Bob Conner raised the issue of the lower lakes not having a representative to the Bi-state Commission. This was to be done initially but the Governor made a different appointment. This area needs to be represented. There was some earlier talk of getting an additional appointment but that did not happen. It would be nice to get a tie-in for one of the vice-chairman to be a Bi-state representative. Watt Foster said he agreed with what he was saying and he would give up his seat if he could, but he did not think that was possible due to the nature of the appointments. Bob replied that this will work out because you guys will represent us well.
- Dr. Cutler nominated Charles Poindexter to be Chairman. Mike McEvoy seconded the motion. Charles indicated he would be honored to serve. Charles Poindexter was selected Chairman by committee vote.
- Evelyn Janney nominated Mike McEvoy to be 1st vice-chair. This was seconded by Read Charlton and passed.
- Watt Foster nominated Bob Conner to be 2nd vice-chair but he declined.
- Curry Martin nominated Watt Foster to be 2nd vice-chair. This was seconded and passed the committee.
- The VRRBAC bylaws are presented below.

Virginia Roanoke River Basin Advisory Committee

Committee By-Laws

Article 1 – Committee Officers; Election, Powers

1. Election of Chair

The Virginia Roanoke River Basin Advisory Committee (VRRBAC) shall appoint by majority vote of the members a chair to set meeting agendas, sign documents on behalf of the committee, make committee assignments and conduct meetings.

2. Election of Two Vice-Chairs

The VRRBAC shall appoint by majority vote a 1st vice-chair and a 2nd vice-chair to act in the chair's stead in the event the chair is unavailable for a particular meeting or event.

3. Creation of Standing Committees and Committee Assignments

The chair shall propose the creation or dissolution of standing or ad-hoc committees subject to a majority vote of the VRRBAC. The chair shall make standing and ad-hoc committee assignments, including selection of standing and ad-hoc committee chairs, as needed.

4. Succession of Officers

The chair and vice-chairs shall serve two year terms and may succeed terms but may not serve more than two consecutive terms. The length of term begins at the meeting the member is confirmed by majority vote of the VRRBAC and shall end at the committee meeting following two calendar years of service. The 1st vice-chair may succeed the chair by a majority vote of the VRRBAC members.

In the event that the chair is removed from the VRRBAC before the end of term, resigns, or is otherwise unable to perform the duties of chair before the end of a specified term, the 1st vice-chair shall be appointed chair upon a majority vote of the VRRBAC.

In the event that either vice-chair is removed from the VRRBAC before the end of term, resigns, or is unable to perform the duties of vice-chair before the end of a specified term, the chair shall nominate another vice-chair for majority vote of the VRRBAC.

While not required, it is the intent of the VRRBAC members that the chair and vice-chairs represent the geographic diversity of the basin.

Sherri Storm, USACE, "Overview and History of the John H. Kerr Project"

- The project was authorized in the 1944 Flood Control Act by Congress at a cost of \$87,000,000. The purposes included flood damage reduction, power generation, water supply, fish and wildlife conservation, and low water regulation, although some were termed incidental in nature. The first study of the Roanoke River was directed to be done in 1927 and a comprehensive plan was submitted in 1934. It was really the devastating flood of 1940 that brought Congress to finally consider construction. Once funding was secured it took 7 years to get it operational.
- **Question: Who was John H. Kerr?** The NC Congressman who was the father of flood control in the lower Roanoke. Instrumental in getting the funds appropriated.
- Located in VA and NC and includes 6 counties and municipalities and is within 2 hours of Richmond and Raleigh. It is 179 miles upstream of Albemarle/Pamlico Sound, the 2nd largest estuary in the USA. The upstream drainage area is 7,800 square miles. Originally there were 11 dams recommended for flood control on the Roanoke, of which 6 are built. There are 48,900 surface acres of water @ elevation 300 ft. MSL. At max flood pool there are 83,200 acres which is at 320 feet MSL. 57,600 acres of fee-owned public lands exist above the 300 ft. contour. There are 10,509 flowage easement acres. There are 34 different clauses dealing with easement which is very confusing to the public. Some own to 267 ft., some own at 300 ft., and some at 310 ft. elevations. It just depends upon when the easement was purchased and this causes a lot of misunderstanding. USACE does not own the land but rather the right to flood it. There are 800 miles of shoreline and 895 miles of project boundary which we have to paint, inspect, and walk.
- **Question: Does USACE own below the dam.** It owns Buggs Island and some shore property along river. **Who owns Gaston?** Dominion Power. **What are the other dams?** Gaston and then Roanoke Rapids. **What was construction order?** Bob Conner said Kerr, Roanoke Rapids, and then Gaston.
- Construction occurred between 1947 and 1952. It was originally called the Buggs Island Project. 3 shifts of 700 men working 24/7 built the dam. There were 4 fatalities which is an amazing feat in itself. The acquisition of surrounding lands involved purchase, condemnation, and easement agreements which compounds the public confusion mentioned earlier. Rangers spend a good bit of time explaining these details. The 82nd Congress renamed the project John H. Kerr Dam and Reservoir in 1951. Virginians

however still call the lake Buggs Island. In fact the Virginia General Assembly passed the name of the lake to be Buggs Island Lake. It is recognized in courts and is on maps. Many people thought it was two different lakes. Now you generally see the other name in parenthesis no matter what it is called. The construction was filmed and produced as the movie "Titan in Concrete". It has now been reproduced on video. The 50th anniversary was celebrated on September 28, 2002, and was attended by original construction employees as official guests of honor. 30 attended and shared stories about the dam including the fact they worked for \$ 0.50/hr. The switch used to turn on the dam by Congressman Kerr was loaned to us for the celebration and for a period of time.

- The site is rich in cultural history. The Oconeechee Indians lived in this area. They were considered the middlemen to trade with white man and other Indians.
- The Buffalo Springs National Historic Site is located here. It is outside Clarksville. It was one of the original springs, In the 1600s, Byrd called it "What Adam Drank in Paradise" as it tasted really good. Buddy Ebsen, Grandpa on the Beverly Hillbillies used to spend his summers here.
- There are many old sites of antebellum plantations. There is a link to the Roanoke Island's Lost Colony & Cape Hatteras Lighthouse. There have been glass beads found along the banks of the Roanoke which apparently dated back to 1685, which could be that link. Also traders coming up the James River from the Jamestown Settlement they were told by the Oconeechee Indians that there had been people who dressed like them working in the copper mines for 20 years. So maybe it's possible that the Lost Colony did not get lost at all but ended up in this area. They know that Sir. Walter Raleigh tried to come up the Roanoke but could not pass the rapids.
- The original Fresnel lens from the Cape Hatteras Light House is rumored to be under the waters of the reservoir. During the Civil war the Confederates removed the Lens to prevent the "Yankees" from getting it. It was supposedly packed in crates and sent to Granville County.
- There are connections to the Revolutionary and Civil wars. The grave of Robert Munford is on a hiking trail and the Battle of Staunton River was fought nearby. A cannon ball was found in North Bend Park.
- The 1918 Train Wreck lies in Nutbush Creek. Nutbush Creek is the largest arm of the lake. There was a trestle damaged by a forest fire and the train ended up at the bottom of the creek. Fisherman can see the train. It apparently is lying on its side. During the drought you could see the remains of the track. One lady says the boys used to dive down and ring the bell as a challenge.
- Clarksville has invited the USACE to get involved in the Jamestown 2007 event to see what the area can offer for people to see when they stop over going to that event.
- The area is also rich in wildlife and fisheries. There are 6 active Bald Eagle nests which produced 11 young in 2004! The 2004 Christmas Bird Count yielded a sighting of a Golden Eagle.
- There are 14 Park and Shoreline rangers at Kerr. Half do recreation and half do shoreline. 14 campgrounds with 1270 campsites are located here. 16 Day Use areas are operated by the USACE. 34 boat launching areas are available to the public. There are designated safe swim areas. Individual picnic sites and shelters are available. There are 3 Universally Accessible fishing piers and some new bank fishing areas in case you do not have a boat. There are 20 miles of interpretive and hiking trails available for use. There are 2 new visitor centers at Oconeechee and Satterwhite Pt. 2 weeks ago North Bend Park at the dam was named one of the top 100 best family campgrounds in the US. There will be some public service announcements done nationally by the group doing the rating which should be a good selling point for tourism to the area.
- VA State Park leases 2690 acres for Oconeechee State Park and NC leases 2394 acres for Kerr Lake State Recreation Area. 19 quasi-public areas are leased to various other organizations and groups, such as the Boy and Girl Scouts comprising a total of 2216 acres.

- 3 marinas (276 acres) currently exist and a 4th is in the works at Rochichi or Eastland Creeks.
- It is difficult to get revenue figures because it is collected by The National Reservation Service but an estimated \$439,039 for recreation camping and day use and \$ 47,563 in shoreline use permits was collected. There are 4 camp grounds listed with the reservation service. A 5th exists at Ivy Hill.
- The Joseph SJ Tanner, II Environmental Education Center participates in educational activities for children. It is in a remodeled office building and is a regional center for all 6 Counties surrounding the lake. It is a 3-Ring learning tree program for grades K – 12 and tries to match up activities with SOL and other objectives. The kids get water safety, environmental games and an environmental lesson. We have live snakes and animals that are native to the area. There are planned partnerships with NC Aquarium and Dominion VA Power for 2005. The Aquarium is coming here to present some environmental education programs. They are developing a right of way demonstration project for how to manage right of ways without using clear cutting, pesticides and herbicides. Instead it will use vegetative management for wildlife.
- The facility averages 125 Special Events each year, mostly fishing tournaments. The cost is \$50/event. A permit is required. There have been 90 planned so far this year. They are governed by engineering regulations and no commercial activities are allowed. It is an outreach activity for us to communicate lake and safety information. We form partnerships for this too and this year some of the fishing people are helping us develop bank fishing areas and to donate some fishing equipment for children. We assist with creel studies in conjunction with DGIF. Kerr-Buggs Island Safety Council has won 2 national awards. It meets monthly and is comprised of agencies and citizens concerned with safety. USACE funded and implemented a life jacket loaner program which is now a benchmark for the other Southeast projects. There is a Volunteer Buoy Watch program to help keep the 280 buoys on the lake operational. The Coast Guard Auxillary patrols during peak visitation season.
- The goal of shoreline management is to maintain a balance between permitted private uses and protection of natural and cultural resources for use by the general public. 33 % of the shoreline is zoned for limited development area. There are 3581 Shoreline Use Permits and 2763 private docks. The number of permitted activities totals 9,176. These land use requests and permit numbers are increasing. 33 % of the shoreline is zoned for private docks.
- Shoreline erosion is a continuing problem. The USACE land has eroded into private land in some areas. As a solution, the USACE has formed 82 Cost Share Erosion Control partnerships from 1998 to date. The USACE contributes up to \$ 2500 per project, totaling \$ 155,282 invested so far. The public investment has been \$ 1,067,037.
- Forestry Management is also a duty. We do prescribed burns. 35,000 acres of forest are intensively managed. 600 acres thinned in last five years. 200 acres harvested and 111 acres pine beetle salvaged. This revenue is returned directly to the project, \$562,000. Other activities include wildfire suppression, encroachments/appraisals, and providing forestry support to other projects
- There are 14,000 acres in 26 designated Wildlife Management Areas where the public can hunt. There is a guided Wildlife habitat management area with information and maps of the different species. This is the largest tract of federally owned land in southern Virginia/ northern piedmont of North Carolina. Threatened & endangered species monitoring is conducted and consists mostly of identification. The bald eagle is the only one mentioned. We work closely with the State on this. There are 5 Waterfowl impoundments in the upper reaches near South Boston
- Upstream water management issues include tourism matters, adjoining property owners concerns with water levels, fisheries impacts, access issues, mosquitoes, invasive plants, water quality, water quantity issues during drought and floods, PCBs, and municipal water supplies. Water Supplies for

municipal and industrial purposes use project water with Clarksville, VA – 0.3 MGD, Kerr Lake Regional (Henderson) – 10 MGD, Virginia Dept. of Corrections – 0.06 MGD, and Mecklenburg Co-Gen Plant – 2.3 MGD.

- Water management downstream issues include dissolved oxygen in the lower Roanoke River (turbine venting may help provide a solution), stagnating tributaries, invasive plant growth in low water, salt water influx into upstream interests, striped bass spawning in spring, inundation of bottom land hardwoods, and bank erosion. The upstream/downstream issue is really a balancing act for the USACE.
- **Question: Read Charlton asked what about the Tungsten mine? Does the dam downstream protect the mine?** It is protected by the Island Ck. Pumping station. The dam originally protected the mine but now prevents the material in the mine from washing into the lake. It is private and USACE property.
- **Question: Charles Poindexter asked does the Federal Government pay the local government taxes on the flow easement property.** The Flood Control Act provides that 75% of revenues gained from these leases are returned to the State in lieu of tax payments. It is up to the State what is done with that money.
- **Question: Read Charlton asked are the wardens on the lake Federal or State.** They are State. The USACE has proprietary jurisdiction, unlike the Park Service who are law on the Federal Land. The USACE has granted the authority to the local Sheriff's Department to enforce the law and the State Game Wardens enforce fish, game, and migratory bird laws. The USACE park rangers do not enforce laws.
- **Question: Bob Conner asked what % in terms of acres of the lake is impacted by hydrilla.** It is very small mostly around the boat ramp areas on the shoreline at North Bend Park. It is monitored by a private contractor and herbicides are used in the fall of the year. It is not a huge problem yet!
- **Question: Bob Conner stated that the USACE controls the boats and river as they do up here. What would the USACE do if local authorities decide that we are not going to provide any protection on the water?** I have no idea. We are prohibited by regulation from enforcing game laws. I am also not sure the State can refuse to do it as the way it is set up the State still has jurisdiction. I don't know. **John Feild said there is sensitivity with the USACE instituting a police force to police civilians. That is inherent in the proprietary ownership of the property and leaving the law enforcement to the State.** The existing USACE are only regulation enforcers and have no power of arrest, detain, search, or seize. I can take you to Federal Criminal Court in Richmond, VA. If you decide you don't want to talk to me you can choose to run, I can't stop you. Also we are trained in our visitor assistance programs, to get compliance at the lowest level. The first thing we will do is inform you of the regulation you are in violation of and tell you next time you will know. The next time you will get a written warning. The 3rd time you will get a citation and you can pay a fine or take a mandatory appearance to federal court. In 20 years I have written less than a dozen citations and taken 3 trips to Federal Court. So if I write you, you really need to go! We enforce such things as littering and unauthorized cutting trees. We are not a police force but are here to assist the visitors of which we have 2 million per year. We banned alcohol in 1998. We have for 20 years had a contract with the Mecklenburg County to provide law enforcement. The County supplies the Deputy and we pay the County for the deputies, equipment, and gas. It is a good partnership. The people feel safe. If there is a problem we have a guy with a gun and the knowledge to deal with it.
- **Question: People put brush piles in the lake to attract fish. Is that allowed?** It is but you have to coordinate that with DGIF who will defer it to us. So really nothing is allowed to go in the lake without permission. It is not supposed to be done without DGIF doing it. People however do it all the time. We are hoping DGIF gets a volunteer group to do this activity. You can't just do it.

- **Charles Poindexter said that the land under the lake that is privately owned and the USACE purchased the right to flood it has probably been taken off the County tax rolls. Someone has to pay the tax on it and I think the answer is the USACE pays that to the State.** If it is leased maybe, otherwise I do not think so. **Tim Rainey said when USACE purchased the right to flood it, they paid a percentage of the value but I don't believe we pay the taxes.** Charles said but someone has to pay the taxes. **Curry Martin said, in Bedford County I had to pay tax on it.** At SML AEP pays the tax on the flooded land. **Bob Conner said that Dominion owns all the shoreline around Gaston despite their land. It has nothing to do with the Feds.** Watt Foster said it's just like the railroad coming through your land. The landowner pays the taxes on it.

Buck Buchanan, USACE, "John H. Kerr Rehabilitation Project Update"

Buck Buchanan, Engineer Hydropower Branch of USACE, then spoke to the group further about the history of the dam and the current rehabilitation. He is a former mayor of Clarksville and very knowledgeable about the distribution of power and the operation of the powerhouse.

- The dam was built between 1947 and 1951 and the 7 generating units and 2 station units were commissioned in 1951 and 1952. There have been no major failures of the system in that period of time. In 1995 as the units approached 50 years of operation a decision was made to conduct a rehabilitation study. The study was initiated that year and in 1998 was approved by Congress. The first contract was awarded in 2003, to update the switchyard.
- The 115 kV switchyard has been upgraded from 600A to 2000A. It was also updated to include gas breakers rather than oil which are more environmentally friendly in regards to possible contamination issues. The old breakers contained about 45000 gallons of oil. 28 breakers were installed. In addition all disconnects and transformers were replaced and the superstructure was reconditioned and painted. The breaker supply and install contract is now complete at a cost of \$4,689,555. The other work was done at a cost of over \$ 2,000,000. It took a little over a year to do this.
- Unit 1(Transformer) is rated at 15 MVA at present and will be upgraded to 55 MVA. Units 2-7 are rated at 41 MVA and will be upgraded to 55 MVA. They are Elco transformers manufactured in Israel, the low bidder. Units 2 and 7 have been installed and the other units are still in service. A new 480 V Station Service Board has been shipped and will be installed this summer. All the in-house equipment and station service supplies are being upgraded. Also 13.8 kV switchgear for the station service tap will be installed. There are 2 station service units that supply power to the powerhouse and portions of the maintenance area. We are going to tap into one of our transformers and take power from the system if we need to service those station service units or rehab them completely.
- A new annunciation system for the entire plant will be installed in the control room at the powerhouse. These units have been shipped and we hope it will be installed by next year.
- The present John H. Kerr Powerhouse nameplate capacity is 204 MW. The new nameplate capacity will be ~296 MW. This is a sizeable increase when we are rewinding, reshaping or redoing everything including the turbines. We are replacing the turbines on units 2-7 and rehabbing the turbine on unit 1.
- The contract was awarded to General Electric, Co. on 30 January, 2003, at a total cost of \$46,892,790. The GE major contract work is to rewind all units and replace cores, rehab unit #1 turbine, replace unit # 2-7 turbines with oxygen injection capability, add to all units new static exciters with power system stabilization and new electronic governors.
- The main contract for John H. Kerr Powerhouse was placed on hold in FY04 due to the lack of government funding. Work will continue in FY05, hopefully on May 9. The first thing will be to

install the other transformers and station service equipment. Then we will rehab the units including the turbine work. Units 2-7 will have turbines with Dissolved Oxygen injection. We hope to increase the O2 level downstream by 3.2-3.5 ppm.

- Last years problems in Cleveland and New York occurred because the generating units at that time could not respond to the tremendous loss of energy on the system. Not only did the transmission systems go down but also the generating systems. At a point in time the generator read low voltage and came off the system. The transmission line went down and the generating use went down. It was a snowball effect. Power system stabilization will permit the generators to stabilize instantaneously and continue operation in the event of a situation like happened last year.
- In summary, the circuit breaker supply and install contract for \$4,689,555 is complete. The crane rehab for \$1,014,578 is complete. This allows the crane to be operated from the floor rather than have an operator in the crane. The transformer supply for \$2,914,280 is complete. The main contract for \$46,892,790 was awarded on 30 January 2003 with the scheduled completion unknown at this time. The total cost for the project is \$55,511,203.
- Philpott Dam in Bassett is also getting some work. A rehab study revealed that there was not substantial decrease to justify rehab at this time. The first thing is to replace the station service unit, which had serious problems in the last 6-8 months. The generator will actually be replaced.
- The Kerr and Philpott projects in 2003 generated 835,851 megawatt hours of electricity and produced total revenue of \$16,100,000. That included 196.5 megawatts of capacity. These projects are actually paid for their potential to produce electricity. That is if they do not produce for a week, there is still an income. The 2003 figure was 191 % of the average production. This was a banner year. There are 77 preference customers we sell to, mostly cities, and co-ops. In 2004 the figures were much lower with 472,114 megawatts produced at Kerr and 27,233 at Philpott.
- **Question: Read Charlton asked does the electricity enter the grid and then is sold anywhere to the highest bidder?** It does not have to be highest bidder. We have that contract that says we will supply a certain amount of electricity per day/week/month. When our customers ask for the power, the electricity is generated and enters the grid. It is metered going in and metered coming off. They pull off what they are supposed to get that day. Southeastern Power Administration (SEPA) is our marketing agency and they are responsible for marketing our power for us. They give us a capacity schedule each day. We put the energy into the system through Dominions system for Kerr and AEPs system for Philpott.
- Comment: John Feild said SEPA is participating in the 216 study integrally in the subcommittees. It makes sure the power interests are fully considered. They help the rest of us understand what the ramifications of what we propose and consider to be.
- Buck Buchanan said in FY 06 the Presidents budget includes \$ 14,000,000 for Kerr. We are hopeful that Congress passes this.
- **Question: Read Charlton said the increase in DO downstream should have a beneficial effect. Absolutely! John Feild said there is even talk of weirs and bladders that the water withdrawal will have to pass through the oxygenated zone rather than coming directly from the deep areas. This would further increase the DO levels.** Read asked would this change the temperature. **Buck said the temperature at the 55 ft. level is pretty constant so he doesn't expect much change.**
- **Question: Charles Poindexter asked how the money flows.** All I can tell you is that we never see a penny of it. It goes directly from SEPA to Washington. **Is it put in the General Fund?** I do not know.

Future Meetings:

The next meeting will be held in Ebony at the Fire Station, on July 26, 2005. Robert Conner is making arrangements for the meeting and it is planned that VRRBAC will have an opportunity to see the impact of hydrilla on the lake. Other topics suggested at this time include inviting NCRRBAC members to attend and having someone associated with the Albemarle Pamlico Sound to inform the group.

Adjournment